

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

March 22, 1978

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

(X) Release ( ) Excise ( ) Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: ( ) In Part ( ) In Full

( ) Classify as ( ) Extend as ( ) Downgrade to

Date Declassify on Reason

AR017

The Honorable  
Cyrus R. Vance  
Secretary of State  
Washington, DC

Dear Cy:

I understand that you may be considering, in the near future, further transfers of military arms and equipment to Argentina. I want you to know that I would be extremely concerned about such transfers at this time. Before you make a final decision, I ask that you arrange for consultations with my staff and the staff of other interested members of Congress.

Last summer, the Congress adopted Section 620B of the Foreign Assistance Act, which included a prohibition of all military sales to Argentina introduced by myself and Senator Church. Although this prohibition takes effect in the next fiscal year, it was never our intent to encourage a surge of new arms transfers in the months preceding the cutoff of military assistance and supply. Last November, I wrote to you about thousands of innocent people who have been kidnapped, detained and tortured in Argentina, and asked specifically that you raise five cases of pressing concern. I welcome the oral response that these cases were raised during your trip to Argentina, but it is my understanding that very little human rights progress of significance has occurred since that time. I would appreciate a written update on these cases, and on the human rights situation as a whole, at your earliest opportunity.

I strongly believe, therefore, that there should be no new arms transfers to Argentina, at least until substantial progress has been demonstrated toward both our human rights and our non-proliferation objectives in that country. My staff will be at your Department's disposal for early discussion of this important issue.

My thanks for your consideration of these points, and my warm personal regards,

Sincerely,

Edward M. Kennedy

Lot 81D208

Box 4963 (2/12)